(i) National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) in April 2000 for promotion of organic export.

(ii) National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) in October 2004 with following objectives:

- Putting in place a system of certification of organic produce;
- Capacity building through service providers;
- Financial support for commercial production units for production of organic inputs through back ended capital subsidy
  - fruits and vegetable compost units
  - bio-fertilizers units
  - vermi-culture hatcheries
- Market development, promotion, extension and training on organic farming.

Assistance to Punjab for upgradation of semen banks

1060. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government has asked the Central Government for more funds for upgrading semen banks to ISO certification for buffalo breeding of Murrah and Mili Ravi breeds; and

(b) if so, whether the amount has been sanctioned and if not, at what stage the proposal is under consideration of Government?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal received from the State Government for upgrading semen stations has been considered under National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding. Micro-plan of Punjab for 05-06 has been approved for Rs. 1165.59 lakh which includes Rs. 540.70 lakh for modernization and strengthening of semen stations, out of this an amount of Rs. 300.00 lakh has already been released to the State as first instalment.

National Horticulture Mission

1061. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: